



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGISLATION TO RESTORE FULL FUNDING TO JOINT TECHNICAL EDUCATION DISTRICTS ACROSS THE STATE PASSES OUT OF HOUSE COMMITTEE

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX, AZ (Monday, February 8, 2016) – HB 2642, legislation meant to restore full funding to the same levels prior to last year's budget for every Joint Technical Education District (JTED) student in Arizona, passed out of a special House Education Committee today by unanimous vote.

One of the prime sponsors of HB 2642 Representative Chris Ackerly stated, "As an educator I have seen firsthand how valuable JTED supported programs are in preparing students for college, career and keeping kids engaged in school. On behalf of the members of the House I was proud to introduce the bill in front of today's education committee as we start the process of restoring JTED funding."

After hearing concerns and input from Republican caucus members in the House, the legislation will also include accountability, performance measures, and JTED finance reforms.

Some of the accountability and performance measures will include:

- Placing JTEDs in the A-F accountability system
- Including JTEDs in an ongoing Performance Audit Cycle
- Requiring the Auditor General to perform a Special Audit on JTEDs
- JTEDs will be placed in the regular cycle of Performance Audits
- Establishing a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Task Force that will help create uniformity across JTED and CTE platforms including certifications, establishing open enrollment across all JTEDs, and reducing duplicative CTE programs and courses based on specific criteria.

Some of the finance reforms will include:

- Eliminating the 7.5 percent funding reduction previously enacted for FY2017
- Fixing the graduated student gap so that students who have graduated or achieved a GED between the ages of 18 and 21 are no longer included in student counts for JTED courses
- Prohibiting district schools from requiring more courses than necessary to graduate before allowing a student to attend a JTED

"I am pleased we were able to come up with a solution that fully restores funding to JTED students across the state while implementing some important accountability measures to ensure high-quality educational outputs," stated Appropriations Chairman Justin Olson. "These kinds of programs are vital to the state of Arizona, ensuring that students are able to step into the workforce with the skills employers want and need."

Speaker of the House David Gowan stated, “JTED and CTE programs benefit students, their families, and the state’s economy by providing career-relevant skills and strong connections to the employers in our state. I am proud to have worked alongside House leadership and the Senate to get this vital legislation introduced.”

Majority Leader Steve Montenegro added, ““Many students do better in JTED programs than in traditional academic programs. Businesses in our state are looking for people with the skills and certifications that can be gained at a JTED. This agreement, not only means that our current JTED students will be fully funded, the reforms ensure that our JTED programs will be even better in the future.”

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